

Inductive Bible Study Method

Preparation:

- Pray and ask God to reveal what His message is in the passage. Never read into a passage what isn't there; that is known as eisegesis, reading into the passage.
- Never use a study bible, and stay away from commentaries and other outside resources with the exception of a good dictionary.
- Remember that in inductive study, you should only take from what is in the passage.

Observation:

- Who: Identify the people who are present in the verse, i.e. Jesus, Peter, the disciples, the multitude.
- When: Identify the timing of the verse, i.e. that day, the third hour, evening, after Jesus healed the man.
- Where: Identify the location, i.e. the synagogue, Nazareth, Tyre, by the sea.
- What/Why: Identify what is happening, why, or how it was done.

For an example let's look at Mark 5:21-22

21 Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea. 22 And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet.

Chart:

Vs.	Who	When	Where	What Why How
21	Jesus, multitude	After He crossed over.	Seashore	A large crowd comes to Jesus. Jesus stays near them.
22	Jesus, Jairus	" "	" "	Jairus falls at the feet of Jesus

- When facts are repeated from one verse to the next, or no change has been made, just use a ditto " mark instead of writing the same thing over and over. If Who, When, or Where is not known, leave the space blank...
- If there are words you don't understand, use a dictionary to bring clearer understanding. (You can write definitions on the back of your paper.)

Relationships within the story:

- Look for repeated words or ideas.

- Look for contrasts.

Mark 4:35-41

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." 36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as he was. And other little boats were also with Him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. 38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" 39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. 40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" 41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

NKJV

Repeated words and ideas: Fear (vs 38, 40, 41) Wind (vs.37, 39, 41) The disciples were afraid of the power of the storm, and they were afraid of the power of Jesus. (vs.38, 41) The peace and calm of Jesus. (vs.38, 39) The wind and the sea. (vs.37, 39, 41)

Contrasts: The power of Jesus and the helplessness of the disciples. (vs.38, 39) The fear of the disciples and the calm and peace of Jesus. (vs.38, 40) The forces of nature recognize who Jesus is but the disciples don't. (vs.39, 41) The humanity of Jesus and the divinity of Jesus. (vs.38, 39) The storm and the calm. (vs.37, 39)

Relationship with the previous story:

- Answer the question of how this story relates with the preceding story. Are there repeated lessons or contrasts? This is very important and helps you gain the flow of the passage. An author has a reason for the stories he selects; your job is to find out what it is.
- Be an investigator; dig deep into God's word.

Interpretation: Discovering the truth.

- Answer these questions: What does this passage teach? Why is the author bringing it up?
- Always use this pattern: "In this passage we learn that..."
- Look for the truths that are timeless, that is, ones that are not specific to a time or culture.
- Important! Don't just retell or paraphrase the story.
- You are not limited to how many truths can come from a story. Look for as many as possible. You may even want to look at a passage from different points of view, (i.e. the crowd's, the disciples, or Jesus'.) Discipline yourself to examine it as thoroughly as possible from many different perspectives.
- Remember, context is key. Is your interpretation consistent with the surrounding verses and chapters? Is it consistent with the book in which it is found? Is it consistent with the whole Bible'?

Interpretation example from Mark 4:35-41:

- In this passage we learn that Jesus has the power and authority to control the forces of nature. (vs. 39) And the Lord uses His power to accomplish what He desires. Even if it's as small as crossing a lake in a boat, Jesus will make a way for His will to be done. (vs. 35, 39) We also see that it is God's desire for us to live a life of faith, a

life of trust in Him, not one of fear or shrinking 'back but one that recognizes who Jesus is and who we are in relation to Him. (vs. 40) To live a life without faith is to live a life that doesn't recognize who Jesus is. (vs.41) In this passage we also see the humanity of Jesus in that He was tired physically. His body needed sleep, yet in His divinity He could control the wind and the sea. Jesus was fully God and fully human. (vs. 38, 39)

(Be sure to give a reference verse for each interpretation.)

Main Idea:

- What is the main idea of this story? (Use as few words as possible.)
- Using Mark 4:35-41, we would have a main idea of: The power of Jesus, or, With Jesus there is no fear.

Application:

- Application answers the question of how the passage ministers to you personally.
- There can be many applications to a single section.
- In application, we also need to ask ourselves "What am I going to do about it?" "What practical steps can I do to put action in my application?"
- Questions to ask yourself:
 1. Is there an example for me to follow?
 2. Is there a sin to avoid?
 3. Is there a promise to claim?
 4. Is there a command to obey?
 5. Is there a condition to meet?
 6. Is there a verse to memorize?
 7. Is there an error to mark?
 8. Is there a challenge to face?

Remember that application is the goal of all biblical study God desires to use His word to change your life. Ask God what it is that He would say to you through the passage you are studying.

Examples of application:

- This passage ministers to me personally because I see that when I do the things that God has put before me to do, like being a Godly father and husband, those things that are His will for my life will come to pass. The Lord will be there calming the storm, making a way even though to me it might look hopeless or impossible. I believe that God's message to me is simply to have faith, and move ahead without fear, trusting completely in Him and doing His will for my life.
- *What am I going to do about it? (Be specific, put action in your application)*
I am going to pray every day for my friend at work, that the Lord would enable me with the opportunity and ability to share the gospel with him.

Men's Inductive Bible Study

Passage:

Date:

Relationship within the story (repeated words or ideas):

Contrasts:

Relationship within the previous story (repeated words or ideas):

Interpretation

Passage Lesson: "In this passage we learned..."

Main Idea:

Application

How is this passage ministering to me?

Steps to apply: (What am I going to do about it?)

Chapter Summary

[illegible]